

LITTLE TOKYO COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
Japanese American National Museum/Aratani Central Hall  
100 Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 10:10 am-11:45 am

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

In Attendance: Chris Komai, Chair; J. Fukuhara; I. Simonian; D. Matsubayashi; E. Yoshimura; S. Nitahara; C. Hanami; G. Muranaka; D. Aihara; A. Kumamoto; T. Handa; J. Okazaki; P. Abe; C. Aihara; E. Endo; K. Fukushima, Managing Director.

Directors Absent: L. Ito; B. Kito; Y. Shikai; G. Campos; K. Nagao; J. Liu; S. Oshima; J. Choi.

1. CALL TO ORDER/REVIEW.

Chair C. Komai called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Little Tokyo Community Council to order at 10:10 am, Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at the Japanese American National Museum.

A. Approval of March 27, 2018 Regular Board minutes.

**Motion.** When quorum was reached, A. Kumamoto moved to approve the March 27, 2018, Board minutes as amended, seconded by E. Endo. Motion was approved unanimously.

B. Financial Report.

J. Choi absent. Please refer to the March 27 and April 24 Board packets for financial statements. C. Komai discussed how to utilize the \$40k funds from Metro as well as the grant from Wells Fargo of \$2.5k. He would like to see the creation of a development committee that would expand the current pool of donors within LT to a larger one outside the community. Several finance committee members had also expressed an interest in moving the Board's account to Union Bank from Pacific Commerce.

2. Nominations.

C. Komai named the class of 2018 as follows: D. Aihara, C. Komai, A. Kumamoto, D. Matsubayashi, J. Okazaki. C. Ishii's seat is currently empty, and both K. Nagao and Y. Shikai have indicated they will step down when their terms expire on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The nominations committee has recommended two candidates: Tetsuo Shiota (Anime Jungle) and Matt Glaser (Wolf and Crane). C. Komai would like to see more faith-based organizations, such as Nishi, represented, to create more diversity within the Council. K. Fukushima asked for more Japanese-speaking members and would like to see more representation from East of Alameda. She also asked the Council to seek more age-diverse candidates. Legacy and first-generation business owners are now better represented thanks to the new candidates nominated (see above).

**Motion.** C. Komai moved to approve T. Shiota and M. Glaser for membership to the Board beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, seconded by D. Matsubayashi. Motion was approved unanimously.

### 3. 7-Eleven CUP Application.

PCPC had previously recommended two motions to the LTCC Board and Council which were approved: to oppose the CUP request from 7-Eleven, and to oppose the opening of a 7-Eleven in Little Tokyo. A third recommendation: to oppose national chain stores in LT generally, was tabled by the Board pending further review and discussion within the community. Public comment has been extended to 5/7/18.

The ensuing discussion focused on conditions to be met in exchange for the Council's support of a store in LT. (Refer to back of Board packet.) Some conditions discussed were to limit the store hours, dim interior lights after hours, provide trash bins and maintain cleanliness, enforce illegal curb/street parking, provide local LT vendor products. Several members (E. Yoshimura, C. Aihara) voiced general opposition to allowing a 7-Eleven store in LT, in view of the three markets and the family mart already available, although C. Aihara remarked that 7-Eleven could still receive a CUP despite the community's efforts. E. Endo called attention to the concern previously expressed by Rev. Nakagawa regarding the high density of alcohol-related permits in LT.

D. Aihara suggested that written conditions should be agreed to in exchange for the Council's support. C. Komai also thought the Board should move forward with conditions. K. Fukushima stated that the only leverage the Council and community have is the CUP request. The question, she said, is whether the community's goal is to oppose the CUP, stop the store, or require conditions to mitigate the impact the store would have on the neighborhood. And she reiterated previous opposition to off-site liquor sales. She then asked the Board whether it would accept PCPC's new recommendation that on-site security be required as a condition for approval, or hold to the original LTCC motions to oppose the CUP request, and also to oppose the 7-Eleven in LT.

**Motion**, as previously recommended and stated by PCPC, which moved "to approve that on-site security be required as a condition to support the 7-Eleven CUP, seconded by A. Kumamoto." (Ref. Board packet.) Vote: Yea: DM, AK, DA, TH, IS, PA, JF. Nay: EE, EY, GM, CA, SN, CH, CK. Abstain: JO. On the basis of the bylaws, D. Aihara determined that the Chair can vote as a member. **Motion was not approved.** The Council will continue to recommend and support the previously approved motions.

### 4. West Santa Ana Branch Update.

K. Fukushima asked that the Board review the WSAB Outreach Summary. She reported that the Metro Planning Committee will meet on 5/16/18 at 2 pm in Metro HQ at Union Station, and the Metro Board will meet on 5/24/18 at 9 am, also in Metro HQ. A. Kumamoto and D. Matsubayashi both raised the question of which routes the Council wishes to have Metro review further. J. Okazaki raised concerns regarding route F's construction impacts to area businesses and organizations. D. Aihara added his concern

about routes utilizing Alameda. K. Fukushima discussed connections and ridership as well as access to station stops, and asked whether the Regional Connector already brought enough transit to the area. The general question is: what is best for LT? Concern was also expressed about gentrification. D. Matsubayashi asked which routes were most viable. K. Fukushima stated that during community meetings route G was offered as a solution, as it generally bypassed LT with minimal construction impacts to the area. Route H could be considered if Metro would provide a connection to the Red/Purple lines to complete the route to Union Station. And route E could be supported as long as the route is kept underground. D. Aihara suggested considering routes E, G, H, and opposing route F. **Motion.** C. Komai moved to support the further study of routes E, G, H by Metro, seconded by E. Yoshimura. Motion was approved unanimously.

Next Board Meeting: 5/22/18 at 10 am at JANM.

Adjournment. There being no further business before the Council, Chair C. Komai adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.

K. Fukushima, Managing Director.

J. Fukuhara, Secretary, minutes.